

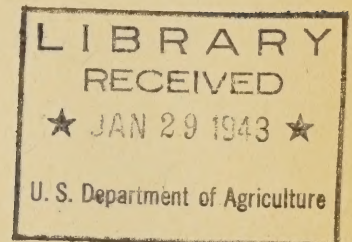
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FARM LABOR NOTES

July 20, 1942

Extracts from reports of field representatives



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Sources indicated by initials:

BAE	Bureau of Agricultural Economics
FLC	Farm Labor Committee
RLSC	Regional Labor Supply Committee
FSA	Farm Security Administration
WB	War Board
OI	Office of Information
RS	Reclamation Service

NORTHEAST REGION

The Northeast Region uses migrant labor to harvest some of its most important crops including potatoes, canning and market vegetables, tobacco, and fruit. Aroostook County in Maine, and the Connecticut Valley, have depended largely upon labor recruited from within the region. Central and southern New Jersey and the eastern shore of Delaware and Maryland ordinarily use some local help, and in addition depend heavily upon migratory labor. The recent employment of negroes in manufacturing concerns in Delaware has lowered the farm labor supply of that State.

Dairy farmers are finding it difficult to obtain skilled farm hands. This is particularly true in southern Vermont and in the Great L Valley of New York State. Woods labor in southern Maine and New Hampshire has been difficult to hold.

Migratory labor from across State lines has also dwindled, as jobs in their own areas and transportation difficulties have held the migrants nearer home. Farmers in Maine, New Jersey, Maryland, and Delaware have been the principal sufferers from this reduction.

Throughout the Northeast a number of experiments are being tried in the use of sources of farm labor not ordinarily tapped, such as the unemployed, men displaced by wartime changes in production, conscientious objectors with farm experience (New York) and, in Maryland, inmates of penal institutions. Nonfarm women, as well as those living on farms, have contributed to the labor supply, especially in the poultry industry. Land armies have been organized in a number of States, and the farmerette has been revived. Students, principally those of high school age, have been the most important single source of untapped labor. (BAE)

MASSACHUSETTS:

Hay loaders and manure spreaders are scarce and practically unobtainable. Our dairy farms are the hardest hit as far as labor is concerned, and these two machines contribute greatly to the relief of farm labor. Requests from two War Boards have come into this office asking if the quota for distribution to Massachusetts could be increased. (WB)

VERMONT:

Representatives of the Volunteer Land Corps report that by July they will have 1,000 Volunteer Land Corps recruits working on farms in Vermont and New Hampshire.

Some dairy farmers report that they are decreasing the number of dairy cattle on their farms due to the shortage of experienced dairy help. It is not known how wide spread this movement is but if it should become larger it would mean production of dairy products would be cut to the extent that it would take 3 to 4 years to bring dairy production back to normal. (WB)

MAINE:

It is probable that the difficulties being experienced this season in obtaining hay laborers will be reflected in 1943 production. Some farmers will choose to reduce the size of the dairy rather than face the labor situation. The movement of high school youths into industry is limiting the possibility of substituting them for the men normally employed. A reasonably adequate supply of women and children is available for agricultural work, and with favorable weather it is likely that there will be no important crop losses this year. (WB)

NEW JERSEY:

There have been about 10,000 high school youths registered for farm work and many of these youths have been employed. This activity is being carried on by State and County Student Service Commissions.

The Walker-Gordon Farms have offered their farm as a training facility for women wishing to assist in farm work.

The three migratory labor camps are completed and open for habitation. However, the number of workers housed there is disappointingly small. The greatest problem seems to be a method for handling funds for transporting these workers from southern States. (WB)

In central and south Jersey, we are apparently reaching the saturation point on family labor. Henceforth, more hired help will be needed, especially as we approach the peak in tomatoes and potatoes. (BAE)

PENNSYLVANIA:

The labor supply for general farming operations during July appears adequate. School children, gathered from surrounding counties and transported to and from work by the U. S. Employment Service, and older men are the only help available. (BAE)

NEW YORK:

The supply of farm labor is by no means adequate and yet in western New York more labor was made available from towns and villages than was expected. In the Niagara County area it looks now as though industrial work is taking the bulk of the farmers' time. (BAE)

In the upper tier of New York counties and in Suffolk County, lack of adequate transportation facilities is making it impossible to secure needed fruit and truck workers from the South. (FSA)

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

There is a tendency to exaggerate the importance of seasonal labor in this area. Such labor is important, particularly for sugar beets, grain harvest, and haying operations. However, there is a likelihood that during the year the problem of the regular farm worker will become increasingly acute. Farmers who are experiencing difficulty in getting dairy hands, sheep herders, and the like are very apt to reduce these production items in favor of crops or livestock which do not require as much labor. This will of course particularly hit Production Goal effort since the priority crops in this region are comparatively high labor users. (BAE)

OHIO:

The demand for labor is indicated as the highest since April 1920, the supply as the lowest on record, excepting October 1941. In no areas of the State do we have enough farm labor supply to meet the current demand. Practically no farm help is available in nearby towns and villages. In Ohio we have industrial centers in all parts of the State and the factories are paying more than farmers can afford to pay.

Migratory workers cannot be used in most areas. The work needed to be done will last only a few days and will probably not be arranged so that migratory workers can be used. (BAE)

INDIANA:

Family labor is at virtually the same level as last year. Hired labor is somewhat lower, probably because farm work is less crowded this year and higher wages influence the number of persons hired.

The reported supply and demand are practically the same as last year. This would indicate that the supply is unchanged, since a year ago when there proved to be enough farm labor, although it was necessary to pay higher wages. Some uneasiness is being expressed over the prospects of getting enough labor to harvest tomatoes. (BAE)

MICHIGAN:

All except the three northern districts report a better supply now than last year. Reports indicate that the supply of migratory workers is somewhat larger this year. The quality of workers is lower than in previous years. (BAE)

There seems to be ample help for sugar beets, provided growers are able to retain the migrants for the harvest season. Some effort is being made on the part of the USES and large operators to move the migrants to vegetable areas and to the cherry section for harvest; however, there seems to be considerable desire on the part of the beet growers to keep the help near at hand. (BAE)

ILLINOIS:

"We believe that we will have adequate help, for this year, to harvest all seasonal crops, provided that we can convince the farmers, growers, and canners that orders must be placed with the USES far in advance of the actual date that they are needed. (USES, quoted by WB)

Only in areas where seasonal work is present has there been any report of lack of capable farm labor. (WB)

WISCONSIN:

The farm labor situation, as of July 1, has been made less favorable because we have had so much rainfall that field cultivation has been impossible. There is a small percentage of the farms where the shortage of labor is serious, but when the total number of farms in the State are considered, it is not critical. (BAE)

In the eastern and southern sections of the State, there has been a considerable loss of experienced year-round hired men to industry. (FSA)

MINNESOTA:

There is ample labor within the State to take care of all anticipated requirements this season. Survey by the AAA in March revealed that of 200,000 farmers reporting, about 2 percent needed additional labor at that time and about 2 percent stated that they had had to shift production on account of farm labor shortage. This year, there have been fewer transients than usual entering the State, but by proper organization and distribution, local labor appears to be more than adequate for seasonal work. (FSA)

IOWA:

While haying and the cultivation of intertilled crops are somewhat behind schedule and wheat harvest a few days early, there have been few indications that farm labor shortages have developed in Iowa. All of the essential work is getting done and production, from present indications, will not suffer. Even in specialized vegetable areas, the fields appear clean, with some increase in acreage. High school boys and village men are being used frequently for jobs of which they are capable. Remarks that it is impossible to hire workers are common, but there is little indication that the work is not getting done. (BAE)

MISSOURI:

A trend back to sharecropping is occurring because of fear of labor shortage and transportation problems. (FSA)

The farm labor has not changed materially during the past month. Reports indicate that the number of full-time hands is adequate for the present but that the supply for harvest is low. (BAE)

NORTH DAKOTA:

There has been no general shortage of farm labor in the State. The farm work has been retarded due to the late spring and continued rains.

The prospective demand for farm labor for small grain harvest and threshing is being obtained by a farm to farm check, and the available reports indicate that most farms will require additional labor.

A Statewide registration of townspeople for farm labor was held on June 29. Those registering are to constitute a farm labor pool which will be held in reserve in event of a farm labor shortage during the harvest season. (BAE)

The survey mentioned above is 95 percent complete and indicates a need of 75,000 additional workers for the harvest season. (USES)

SOUTH DAKOTA:

As the month of June progressed and the weather became more favorable, there was a definite shortage of experienced farm hands.

The USES estimated that the Belle Fourche area was short 75 beet workers on June 24. About 150 Indians are working in the beets. It is not probable that any beets will be destroyed because of the inability to obtain labor.

Arrangements are being made in many communities for townspeople to work in the small grain harvest if they are needed. About 200 women in the Yankton area will be available. (BAE)

NEBRASKA:

About 5,000 workers will be needed in Nebraska for detasseling corn for hybrid seed production. This work starts about July 10 and continues for 10 days or 2 weeks. Little difficulty will be experienced in providing these workers.

Although labor supply is short, the main reason for delayed work has been weather rather than labor. Although the labor situation is very acute for many individuals, we do not anticipate any material loss of small grain crops due to labor shortage. (BAE)

KANSAS:

It is anticipated that heavy demand for wheat harvest workers will continue until the middle of July. Southeastern and east central Kansas continue to have some surplus of family and local labor. Scattered areas having heavy crop loss due to hail or grain lodging and flooding in river valleys will also provide labor surplus.

The Kansas USES is stressing improved guidance of available migratory harvest labor. The State Farm Placement Supervisor, located at Hutchinson, directs the operations of five roving interviewers who are stationed temporarily at key points where migrants pass through or where their services are heavily needed. He receives daily written reports from these roving interviewers as to supply and demand for labor. The chief handicap to these efforts is the small staff available which limits the activity to guiding migrants in only the most critical areas. (BAE)

SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION

Heavy rains and insect infestations have reduced the demand for labor. Low wage rates, inadequate housing facilities, and lack of transportation were the most important factors that were responsible for the so-called shortages of farm labor in June. (BAE)

Movement of individual workers traveling in their own cars from job to job is not being limited by lack of gasoline. (OI) However it is reported that the supply of migratory laborers moving up the Atlantic Coast is about 50 percent of normal. (BAE)

Attempts have been made to recruit farm labor in Wilson County, North Carolina, for points in other States. Recruiting was done without the sanction of the USES as there is a 50 year old State law prohibiting the transportation of labor to other States, unless specified by the authorities.

The USDA War Boards are gaining recognition in local communities, as a guiding body for the farmers' war effort, as indicated by news items, in which the local correspondents report action the War Board has taken on the farm labor program, that are reprinted in the larger State newspapers. (OI)

DELAWARE:

Acting under recommendations of the State WB and the State Farm Labor Subcommittee, the State Supervisor of Agricultural Education has completed appointment of a teacher-leader in each community to enroll and assist in the placement of school-age children for farm jobs. All contacts are reported to County Farm Placement representatives.

There are approximately 12,000 migrant laborers available in Florida that cannot be moved north because of lack of transportation. This has been reported to the State Farm Placement Supervisor.

This lack of transportation for migrant farm labor, unless remedied, will jeopardize successful operation of an FSA farm labor camp due to open in Kent County on July 1. (WB)

MARYLAND:

It is not known that any crops have been lost because of labor shortages. Farmers anticipate a shortage of laborers for the picking and canning of tomatoes. The three labor camps on the Eastern Shore of Maryland are now reported to be filling up at a much faster rate than earlier in the season. (BAE) However the expected migratory labor from the south is not arriving nor has the migration from Baltimore materialized. (WB)

VIRGINIA:

Farm labor desperately needed near Norfolk was available from the strawberry area of North Carolina but transportation facilities could not be arranged,

partly due to the failure of farmers to cooperate in advance of their needs. Five FSA mobile camps were providing housing for migratory families in Virginia at the end of June. (FSA)

WEST VIRGINIA:

The total number of persons employed per farm in West Virginia on July 1, 1942 continued higher than a year earlier, contrary to all talk of labor shortages on farms. No serious shortage of labor is expected in moving the peach crop or the fall apple crop. The farmers are more worried about the Federal provision for a 75 percent back haul for their trucks since this will mean time lost that is needed for hauling fruit. (BAE)

NORTH CAROLINA:

The Virginia and North Carolina crop reporting services make the point that the farm labor problem is one of quality rather than quantity. The number of workers on farms is estimated to be as large as usual, but farmers have lost many of their best hired hands. (OI)

SOUTH CAROLINA:

The peach season is just getting under way and will become particularly heavy about the third week in this month (July) when the important Spartanburg area begins to ship Elbertas. It has been the custom heretofore to recruit high school boys and girls to help out and no particular labor handicap is anticipated. (BAE)

GEORGIA:

Farm labor shortages are expected at the peak season of the peach harvest. Lack of transportation and low wage rates have caused many local shortages during the past month. (BAE)

FLORIDA:

No labor shortages that hampered crop production were reported during June. Truck farmers are anticipating a further reduction in the labor supply and are trying to hold the migratory workers with offers of full-time employment. Truck planting will begin in August in the southern part of the State; some planters are saying that they will reduce their acreage. Pools of surplus laborers are appearing in the southern and central sections of the State, but, it is presumed, defense construction will absorb these. (BAE)

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

KENTUCKY:

There are a few areas in which military and defense construction is going on and where the wages are higher than those paid by farmers, that the supply of labor is scarce. (WB)

Because of heavy industrial demands and the increase of wages a farm labor problem may develop during tobacco harvest time. (BAE)

TENNESSEE:

There are no indications of an acute shortage of labor in the State. Some localities near industrial centers and in sections where TVA dams are under construction, are finding it difficult to secure sufficient farm labor. (WB)

The Farm Placement Service reports that there is sufficient farm labor available within this State but recruiting and transportation difficulties have been preventing complete utilization. (FSA)

ALABAMA:

The USES reports that approximately 4,000 farm laborers are needed throughout the State. The USES reports: ".....low remunerations, brief duration of the need, the unwillingness of farmers to send their trucks in for small numbers of farm laborers and the absorption of unemployed persons by construction projects within the area have nullified the efforts made by the Employment Service to place the workers on farms." (Quoted by BAE)

"Reports from the various County USDA War Boards indicate that the shortage of agricultural labor is being satisfactorily coped with in many instances by the exchange of workers by the farmers. The cooperation of farmers in pooling their labor is increasing. The disparity in wage levels presents a specific problem which has an increasing trend to curtail the potential labor supply available. If this trend continued, it will seriously interfere with the production of basic agricultural commodities for it is now apparent that farmers did not start crops this year where they were reasonably sure of a shortage of labor." (WB)

MISSISSIPPI:

The on-farm supply of labor is sufficient to carry on the present crop activities. The labor shortages that were reported in Delta counties were not due to the scarcity of available manpower but because of low wages offered and lack of transportation. A few large operators who have adequate transportation facilities have been transporting approximately 400 workers daily from Vicksburg to the Delta.

It is estimated that the Delta counties will have to secure an additional 50,000 farm workers to successfully harvest the cotton crop during September and October.

Plans are being formulated for recruitment of town youth and Negro domestic servants to help in the Delta cotton harvest. (BAE)

ARKANSAS:

The supply of harvest labor is adequate at present but additional workers will be needed for the harvest of the Elberta Peach crop which will begin about July 13 with the peak ten days later. (BAE)

LOUISIANA:

There has been an unusual amount of hoeing necessary because of the rains. Women and children are being employed to make up for lack of hands, and because of the higher wage scale, farmers are doing more of their own work. The demand for farm workers is considerably above normal. (BAE)

OKLAHOMA:

The supply of farm workers continues to be sufficient in most areas. About one-half the grain crop is now harvested with demand for farm workers not greatly in excess of supply at current wages. Hay baling, cotton chopping, and cultivation of late corn have been delayed in some localities due to late grain harvest. Rain has spread out some normal work on spring-sown crops. Longer hours, more exchange and family labor have kept up with labor demands with no actual loss of crops due to labor shortages. (BAE)

TEXAS:

The question of importing Mexican workers for farm labor in the United States is still unsettled. Uncertainty and delay have characterized the situation from the beginning. Numerous domestic interests in both countries are involved. Despite the state of uncertainty that exists, it appears likely that two things can be expected. First, the requirements that employers must meet, when finally settled, will be expensive and difficult to fulfill; second, the machinery to handle the movement will be slow in forthcoming. It is doubtful if action can be expected before 1943.

A bumper ~~wheat~~ harvest is now in full swing in the Texas Panhandle. Virtually every county report from that area indicated a need for additional labor during the peak period. Reported labor needs ranged from 50 to 1,500 workers per county. Quoted wage rates ranged from \$4 to \$7 per day for tractor drivers and combine operators. In some cases the rates for skilled workers may go even higher. Despite the dependence of this area upon migratory labor, the chances appeared good that a sufficient supply would be available, due chiefly to the attractive wages being offered plus the careful planning of Farm Labor Subcommittees, USDA War Boards, the U. S. Employment Service, and individual farmers. (FLC)

In the irrigated valley composed of Dona Ana County, New Mexico and El Paso and Hudspeth Counties, Texas, below Elephant Butte Dam on the Rio Grande

River, the greater part of the labor for cotton chopping and hoe work on 125,000 acres has been done by older persons and by a relatively large number of inexperienced women and children not normally in the farm labor force. Criticism has been voiced by the farmer in the use of this type of labor, but it is thought they can and will complete the hoe work. Several factors indicate that 65 to 75 percent of the labor required to harvest the cotton crop will need to be imported, either from surplus areas in the States or from Mexico. The local labor supply has been depleted due to:

- (a) Military construction in the immediate and nearby areas.
- (b) The loss of some 300 farm workers to the sugar beet fields of Colorado.
- (c) The loss of 100 or more adult males with farm experience to the armed forces.
- (d) The refusal of some family members normally in the labor force to work because one or more members are drawing wages sufficient to support family needs.

It is feared that migratory workers heretofore coming to the valley for the cotton harvest will be greatly reduced in numbers due to (a) construction work in or near their residence, (b) selective service, and (c) lack of transportation facilities. Several operators stated they were not expecting the small migration of east Texas Negroes to the lower valley this season. (BAE)

MOUNTAIN REGION

May-June peak farm labor requirements were met with relatively few crop losses. Labor requirements were met to a much greater degree than was anticipated by farmers and others. This may be attributed to the wide employment of students and townspeople, to the fact that more transients were available than expected, and to the influence of an extended period of cool weather.

Lack of labor at critical periods contributed to small crop losses. These were due, however, to a combination of circumstances of which labor shortage was not the most important. Farmers did not have all the workers they wanted. Workers were less efficient and were paid 30 to 40 percent higher wages than last year. More supervision was necessary, especially of students. Lack of transportation facilities was revealed as the most important barrier to full use of available farm labor.

MONTANA:

Thinning and blocking of sugar beets was a pressing problem throughout the State. Early growth was retarded and labor could not get into the fields as soon as desirable because of the weather conditions. Later, growth was rapid and uniform and beets required immediate attention. This prevented the normal spread of labor and created shortages which would not have been as severe if weather conditions had been more nearly normal. Some beets were plowed up as a result of advanced growth, poor stands, or insufficient labor. The beet labor problem was met by using new types of labor. In several areas, townspeople and high school boys are credited with saving many beet fields, particularly in the Chinook and Townsend areas. Jap evacuees were also used in these areas. In the Yellowstone area, Mexican laborers from Texas, California, Arizona, and New Mexico were imported, as well as Indians and Russian Germans from the Dakotas. Much of this type of labor was inexperienced and consequently slow in their work. The total supply of labor that became available in this area would have been adequate under normal climatic conditions.

In Big Horn County a serious labor shortage that had developed at the beginning of beet thinning and blocking was relieved by the importation of about 700 workers from Oklahoma, of whom about 15 percent were colored. Better results were obtained from the colored workers than from the white. All were inexperienced and slow. About 10 percent of the white workers returned to Oklahoma within the first 3 weeks.... The predominant judgment we have come across is that these Oklahoma recruits have not worked out very satisfactorily for beet work. The typical Mexican worker is 4 times faster and is not as likely to leave for a higher paying defense job. It is generally reported that the Oklahoma workers, particularly the whites, may not be available for beet harvest. (BAE)

The USES (of Oklahoma) reported that the final figure on the recruitment of sugar beet workers for employment outside the State was approximately 3,000, and that with one exception the sugar beet companies employing Oklahoma labor appeared to be well satisfied with the quality of workers obtained. A number of the heads of families who had gone to the beet

fields were sending money home to pay the transportation of wives and children, with the expectation of remaining permanently outside the State. (BAE)

WYOMING:

A shortage of farm and ranch labor of the usual type was experienced through the month of June. The labor situation in the beet areas was particularly serious, also in the districts in which haying operations were taking place. A considerable part of the labor supply moved into war work at Cheyenne, Casper, and Cody.

Despite this shortage of usual experienced help, thinning and blocking of sugar beets was completed with only a small loss of beet acreage due to lack of labor. County labor subcommittees and War Boards, Chambers of Commerce, civic organizations, and service clubs played an important part. Townspeople were solicited by radio, press, hand bills, and personal contact. The chairman of the Sheridan County Labor Committee reports that some 450 local volunteer workers saved over 1,000 acres of beets in Sheridan County. Coal miners, working on part time, and Indians were called upon to help, though employment of the latter was not successful. (BAE)

COLORADO:

The supply of unskilled farm workers will be nearly sufficient, providing transportation can be provided for moving this class of workers from area to area as the harvests are completed.

The supply of skilled agricultural labor that we anticipate will be short is that of tractor and machine operators, men experienced in delivering livestock, cow hands, and sheep herders. (WB)

A substantial labor supply in northern New Mexico could not be induced to go to Colorado for work in sugar beet thinning because of a lack of adequate reception and housing facilities.

The fruit area in the Western Slope of Colorado may not get its usual number of migrant workers this season because it is away from the heavy migrant streams. A light construction camp of 200 units was opened June 21 at Palisades. (FSA)

IDAHO:

Farming activities are progressing favorably in Idaho with the exception of minor shortages in hay hands and cherry pickers. The U. S. Employment Service reports 3,725 persons engaged in harvesting hay with about 520 additional requested. The shortage of hay hands is being met in 7 counties by extensive exchange of labor and equipment. Approximately 475 cherry pickers could be placed in addition to the 1,200 now employed.

Thinning of sugar beets was completed with very small acreages lost, for example, the Idaho Falls area reporting a loss of 138 acres. According to local USES representative, this loss was due to excessive weediness and high winds.

Adequate labor is reported for harvesting and canning of peas in the Nampa and Payette sections. Canning is at the peak and will be completed by July 12. (BAE)

NEW MEXICO:

"Some difficulty has been encountered in securing the enthusiastic cooperation of employees of County War Boards and community leaders in conducting this survey of farm labor." This lack of enthusiasm is attributed to the fact that as yet we have experienced no critical labor shortage or shortage of farm equipment." (WB)

ARIZONA:

In Pinal County, cotton chopping is reported complete with most fields in good shape. However, irrigators and tractor drivers are at a premium. A third unit for the war relocation center has been authorized, which will continue to utilize labor normally employed on the farms. From Graham County it is reported that farm work is well along on schedule with little labor shortage. Maricopa County reports a need of 400 or 500 additional farm hands, with particular emphasis on irrigators, tractor drivers and hay balers. A recent labor survey indicates that while the volume of migratory cotton choppers which Arizona may expect this year will probably be smaller than in past years, a considerable amount of such labor can be had if problems of transportation and wage rates are met. Wages must be high enough to present an attractive alternative to pickers from Oklahoma and Texas.

Arizona growers are not optimistic about their chances to get labor from Mexico and are now beginning to think in terms of a more rational use of the labor supply which can be obtained in the States. (BAE)

UTAH:

Utah people feel that the program of recruitment of high school workers for agriculture has been very disappointing in relation to the large registration which was obtained two months ago. In Box Elder County in March, 1,100 high school students registered for farm work. On the morning that beet thinning started, only 14 reported for work.

The Utah labor situation is growing more critical and its seriousness cannot be overemphasized. Beet thinning has been accomplished in at least three counties, only by the recruitment of shop and office workers for after-hour employment.

Utah County, it appears, has had the most efficient recruitment and referral system in the state with each city council staffing a community registration and referral office working as a sub-office of the USES. (BAE)

NEVADA:

Adequate labor is expected for normal care of dairy cows, beef cattle, chickens, and turkeys. Local shortages of experienced hay hands have been reported from some areas. Experienced stock hands, horse breakers and sheep herders continue to be scarce. (BAE)

PACIFIC REGION

There should be no material loss of crops that can be successfully harvested by inexperienced workers, women and children. The prospect for the harvest of crops that call for heavy labor and skilled workers cannot be viewed with optimism because the War industries are draining all the sources of skilled labor. Adjustment in the use of farm machinery and of available workers is making progress, but the solution of this problem can be found in local action, by communities working cooperatively. (BAE)

CALIFORNIA:

The farm labor situation continues to be tense. The situation is a highly controversial one, the Governor and representatives of USES recently stating that no farm labor shortage exists, but these statements are emphatically challenged by the farmers in all parts of the state. When the demand for farm labor develops in August, September and October, it is feared that the farmer will be short of help and that recruitment of high school students, women, and others in towns and cities, while affording some relief will not meet the full need. (BAE)

During June the labor force was increased considerably by the closing of schools and colleges. Migration into California continued at rates only slightly under those of 1941, the year of highest movement.

Although no importation of Mexicans has taken place, there is evidence that some workers have entered the labor market in the Imperial Valley.

The U. S. Employment Service reported the arrival of over 1,000 workers from Oklahoma and Texas to relieve the stringency in hoeing sugar beets. Evidence continues to exist that possibilities for more intense recruitment of unemployed Mexicans within the United States are not fully realized. A recent survey made in a Texas region by the Mexican Consul at Los Angeles disclosed 11,000 unemployed Mexicans. Analysis of a sample of 4,000 Mexicans in the Belvedere district in Southern California showed 50 percent of these to be unemployed.

In Southern California the citrus labor stringency has been met successfully by the employment of students and women, and by the cooperative pooling of crews. Training is being provided for new employees. (BAE)

A plan has been developed by FSA for organized transportation of migrant workers who will need local transportation during the months July through November. School buses will be used. It has been estimated that 1366 buses will be needed for the peak month of October. The cost will average 30 cents per worker per day. (FSA)

OREGON:

In Benton County shortages of berry pickers were reported by the U. S. Employment Service to have been due entirely to lack of transportation.

The minimum number of additional workers required to complete the job at the peak was estimated by the U. S. Employment Service to have been 2,600 workers, whereas they had unfilled orders for 4,600 workers during the peak week.

Contrary to the fears of growers, the harvesting and canning of peas in Umatilla and Morrow Counties was progressing at the peak with the required amount of laborers. Over 5,000 field workers were employed in the second week of July. The local U. S. Employment Service office reports no unfilled orders and no shortage. (BAE)

Skilled harvest and dairy hands continue to be scarce, also tractor drivers and machine operators. (BAE)

WASHINGTON:

Warmer weather has considerably brightened the outlook for harvest operations in Washington. Shortages of hay hands are being met in Clark, Lewis, and Kittitas Counties by members of the sawmill and timber workers union and State and county employees who are helping with the harvest evenings and week-ends. Local shortages of labor for the picking of strawberries occurred but were met by mobilizing townspeople. Considerable loss of strawberries was reported due to wet weather and the difficulty of inducing pickers to work in the rain.

In Eastern Washington there continues to be an unfilled demand for workers to spray, thin, and pick tree fruits. About one-third of the cherry crop is reported to have been spoiled by rain so that many of the pickers have returned to apple thinning.

Peak labor requirements for the harvesting of peas will continue in some counties for another 7 to 10 days. Higher wages are attracting an adequate supply of transient labor.

The U. S. Employment Service reports 2,400 additional pickers are needed for the harvest of bush berries. (BAE)

A study was made by FSA of the need for organized transportation of workers into and around Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. In these states it was estimated that nearly three million man-days of migrant labor are needed during the year. Under a rationalized plan, the estimated cost of transportation per worker would be 26 cents per day, based on the assumption that the workers thus transported would be employed 80 percent of the time. (FSA)

The following report is submitted to the Board of Directors of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company for the year ending December 31, 1911.

During the year of 1911, the Company has continued its policy of expansion and growth, and has achieved a record of success in all its operations. The Company's assets have increased by \$1,000,000, and its liabilities have decreased by \$500,000.

The Company's earnings have increased by \$1,500,000, and its dividends have been paid in full.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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